MicroStation Configuration Management Tips and Tricks

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My philosophy and practice of managing MicroStation workspaces.

These are my opinions, they may be wrong but they could be right.

MicroStation Configuration Do's and Don'ts

- ## Do

  - define the variables of standard resource files
  - define the Workspace System folder back to the local computer
  - create roaming profiles for your users
  - use a shared drive on a server makes updates a lot easier
  - store configurations for different versions of MicroStation in separate folders

- ## Do Not

  - edit any configuration files delivered in a standard install
  - use your User Configuration File (UCF) to set company standards
  - customize yourself into a corner

For more information visit: http://envisioncad.com/blog-articles/6-basic-dos-and-donts-of-microstation-workspaces/

Top 10 MicroStation Variables to define standards

1. MS_CELLLIST
2. MS_DEFCTBL
3. MS_CUSTOMSCALEDEF
4. MS_CUSTOMUNITDEF
5. MS_DGNLIBLIST
6. MS_GUIDGNLIBLIST
7. MS_DESIGNSEED
8. MS_TRANSEED
9. MS_DEFAULT_PLTCFG_FILE
10. MS_PLOTDLG_DEF_PENTABLE

For examples visit:

• http://envisioncad.com/blog-articles/top-10-microstation-variables-to-define-standards/

5 MicroStation Variables every User should have defined

1. MS_BUTTONMENU
2. MS_ACCUDRAWKEYS
3. MS_FKEYMNU
4. MS_VBASEARCHDIRECTORIES
5. MS_GUIDGNLIBLIST

For examples visit:

* http://envisioncad.com/blog-articles/5-microstation-variables-every-user-should-have-defined/

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6 Variables that can improve MicroStation

1. MS_DESIGN_HISTORY = create=0
2. MS_LEVEL_DISPLAY_FORMAT = D | N
3. MS_LEVEL_PICKER_WIDTH = 350
4. MS_COMPRESS_OPTIONS = -LEVELS
5. MS_FULLPATHINTITLEBAR = 1
6. MS_DISALLOWFULLREFPATH = 1

For examples visit:

- http://envisioncad.com/blog-articles/6-variables-that-can-improve-microstation/

DGN Libraries

- Create a separate dgnlib for each type of setting/style.

  - Levels, Level Filters, Text Styles, Print Styles, Tasks, Menu bars, etc.

- Create sub dgnlibs for each discipline

  - Design-Levels

  - Structures-Levels

  - GIS-Levels
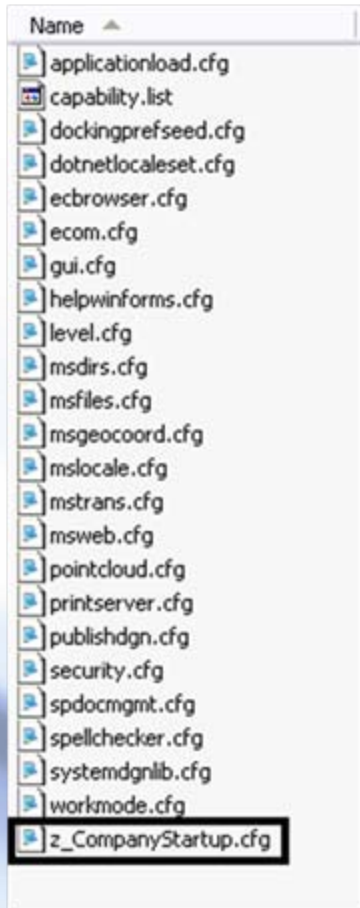
  - Etc.

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Element Templates

- If you aren't using them, you should be.

- Assign templates to menu items with corresponding placement commands.

- Create a logical grouping of templates based on drawing type, feature type, or combination of both.

- Think about printing when setting up your templates

  - Set up one pen table section for each element template group.

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Launch a Workspace
System Folder Config file

…\MicroStation\config\system

- The System folder is a great location to insert a custom Configuration File that could be utilized to launch a custom workspace. Keeping in mind that configuration files are read in alphabetic order; the custom file should be named to be read last.

- In the screen capture, the file **z_CompanyStartup.cfg** was added to the System folder which points to a Network configured workspace.

Launch a Workspace
Icon Startup Config

Startup Switches and Configuration Files

- **-WC<configuration file with path> – Specifies the configuration file MicroStation will use on startup**

- **-WP<project> – Specifies project configuration.**

- **-WR<path> – Specifies _USTN_WORKSPACEROOT**

- **-DEBUG – Dumps configuration variables to msdebug.txt and exits.**

- **-RestoreDefaults– Clears temporary files, restores default preferences, and exits.**

- **-?- Help.**

**NOTE: If you are pointing to a folder name that contains a space you will need to use quotes in the path,
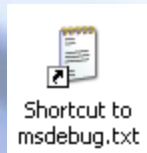i.e. "c:\Program Files\Bentley......".**

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Trouble Shooting the Workspace

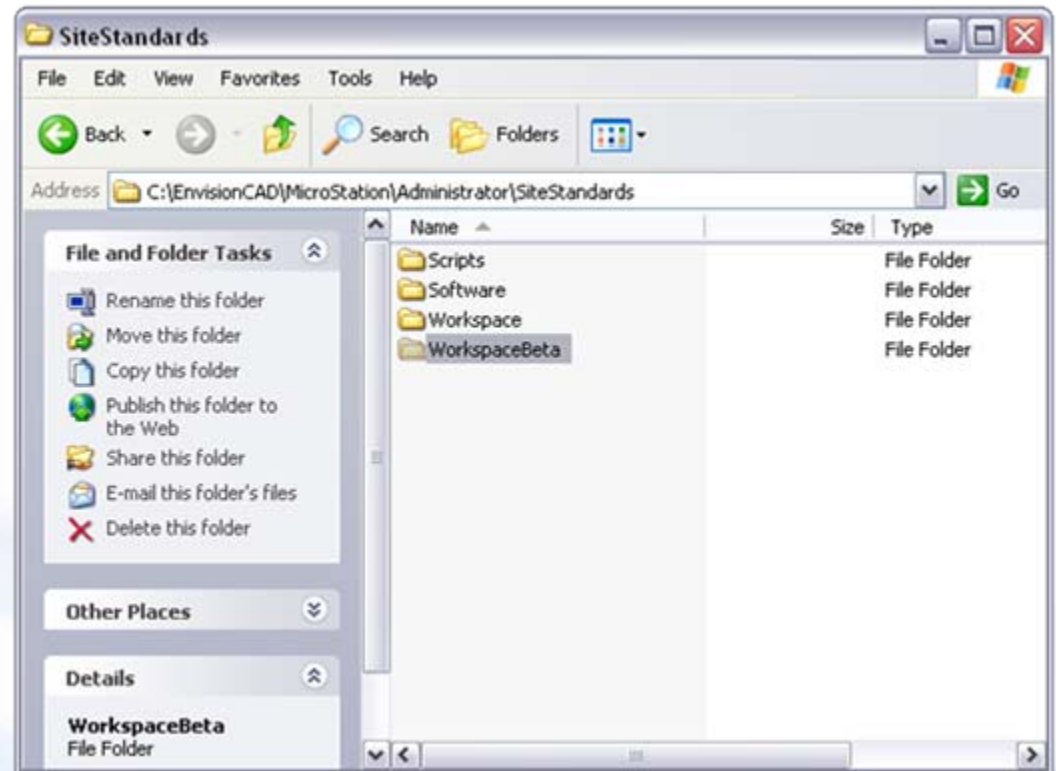- ## **Debugging**

Creating MSDebug File

The MSDebug.txt file is created when the ustation.exe launch with the –debug prompt is added to the command. This can be accomplished by either adding the –debug prompt to the startup icon or running it from a DOS prompt.
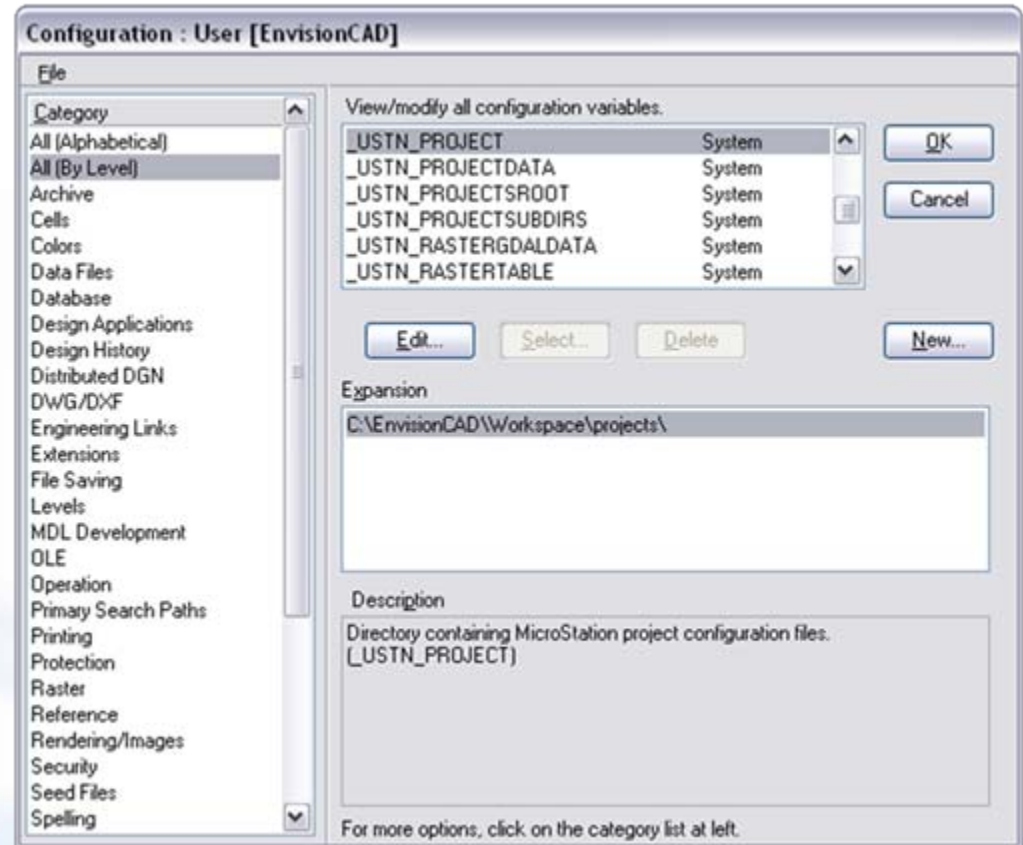
Workspace Updates and Testing

- Create a Beta workspace
- Use the startup configuration file to point to the beta workspace.

Variable for CAD Managers
USTN_DISPLAYALLCFGVARS = 1

- By default the variables in the Configuration dialog box will not display the _USTN variables or any other custom variable you create with an <u>underscore</u>. For a CAD Manager it would be helpful to view all the variables in this dialog to help chase down problems.
- By setting the variable **"USTN_DISPLAYALLCFGVARS = 1"** it will list all available cfg vars including the _USTN vars in the Configuration dialog, this is probably best set in an admin pcf or ucf file.

Configuration : User [EnvisionCAD]

File

Category
All (Alphabetical)
All (By Level)
Archive
Cells
Colors
Data Files
Database
Design Applications
Design History
Distributed DGN
DWG/DXF
Engineering Links
Extensions
File Saving
Levels
MDL Development
OLE
Operation
Primary Search Paths
Printing
Protection
Raster
Reference
Rendering/Images
Security
Seed Files
Spelling

View/modify all configuration variables.

_USTN_PROJECT	System
_USTN_PROJECTDATA	System
_USTN_PROJECTSROOT	System
_USTN_PROJECTSUBDIRS	System
_USTN_RASTERGDALDATA	System
_USTN_RASTERTABLE	System

OK   Cancel

Edit...   Select...   Delete   New...

Expansion

C:\EnvisionCAD\Workspace\projects\

Description

Directory containing MicroStation project configuration files.
(_USTN_PROJECT)

For more options, click on the category list at left.

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List All Variables in MicroStation

- To get a listing of all of MicroStation's Configuration Variables, use this key-in:

  mdl load cfgvars printCfgVarResource - This key-in is case sensitive and must be entered exactly as shown.

  It will create two text files in the MicroStation directory currently open: cfgvars.txt and cfglong.txt.

Your job is not done

- Software installed √
- Software licensed √
- Client standards deployed √
- Workflows
  - Revaluate the current workflows against the new software. Is there a new more efficient way of doing the workflow?
  - Can we automate a workflow with a custom tool or program.
- Follow the data
  - Reuse the data make sure the data is not being recreated by other teams or methods. Example: Follow a data collector file into the office and see where it goes from there.
- Smart people need help too
  - Outsource tasks such as programming, workspace management of multiple workspaces. This could be an internal or external resource.

DO NOT GET BURNED OUT!

- Spend time with your family and friends
- Enjoy a state park
- Volunteer

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Thank you!

Contact us for MicroStation, InRoads, and Map:

- **Workflow evaluation**

- **Training and Training needs analysis**

- **Onsite and Online training**

- **Workspace configurations**

- **Customization and Programming**

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CAD Manager Training

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